

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

At the outset, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Alstrum Acevedo for indicating that the present claims are free of the prior art. Applicants respectfully submit that, in view of the following remarks and the Terminal Disclaimer filed herewith, all of the pending claims are now fully patentable.

The rejection of Claims 22-29, 32, and 33 under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of Claims 1-22 of U.S. Patent No. 6,780,508 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,376,386 is being obviated by the filing herewith of a duly executed Terminal Disclaimer over U.S. Patent No. 6,780,508. Accordingly, the rejection is no longer tenable and should be withdrawn.

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Stephen G. Baxter
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 32,884

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220